

AUSTRIAN INFORMATION

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BERLIN CONFERENCE FAILS TO BRING AGREEMENT ON AUSTRIAN STATE TREATY. The Berlin Conference has come to a close with the Foreign Ministers of the Big Four having again failed to reach agreement on the Austrian treaty and without any progress having been made on the question of Austria.

Immediately after the Ministers assembled it was decided to make the negotiations on Austria the third point on the conference agenda. Austria was invited to send a delegation to Berlin to participate in the conversations as an equal partner. This delegation was headed by Austrian Foreign Minister Leopold Figl and Undersecretary for Foreign Affairs Bruno Kreisky.

The Austrian delegation voiced the urgent desire of the Austrian people that their country finally be given the complete freedom and independence it deserved after 16 years of occupation, first by German and then by Allied troops.

At the same time, the Western Foreign Ministers declared that they were prepared to accept the Soviet version of the still unsettled articles of the Austrian state treaty and to conclude this treaty at once.

Soviet Foreign Minister Molotov, however, made signing of

(Continued on page 2)

WESTERN FOREIGN MINISTERS DEMAND IMMEDIATE CONCLUSION OF AUSTRIAN TREATY WITHOUT AMENDMENTS.

The Western Foreign Ministers categorically rejected Molotov's demands and declared that the Austrian treaty should be signed immediately, without further amendment. Secretary of State John Foster Dulles supported the Austrian demands for modification of the economic provisions of the state treaty and declared that the Soviets have already earned 200 million dollars from the plants they have confiscated in Austria, a sum which is more than the settlement price they had demanded in 1949.

Mr. Dulles then stated that only five articles of the state treaty were still unresolved. Declaring that, after 364 meetings on this treaty and ten years of unkept promises, these

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MOLOTOV REPLIES: SOVIET UNION WANTS TO LEAVE TROOPS IN AUSTRIA.

Soviet Foreign Minister Molotov was the first to reply to the appeal of the Austrian Foreign Minister. He declared that the conference should agree to instruct the Deputy Foreign Ministers to draw up an Austrian state treaty within three months. He advocated, however, the inclusion of the following new amendments to the treaty: Austria

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AUSTRIA REJECTS SOVIET CONDITIONS AS COMPLETELY UNACCEPTABLE.

Following exhaustive discussion between Chancellor Julius Raab and Vice-Chancellor Adolf Schaerf, the Federal Government instructed the Austrian delegation in Berlin as follows in connection with the Soviet Foreign Minister's proposals: "Study of Soviet Foreign Minister Molotov's speech indicates, above all, the complete unacceptability of the demand that Allied troops be left in Austria after conclusion of the State Treaty. The proposal that the evacuation of Austria by the Allied troops should not be carried out simultaneously and to the same extent in all parts of the country appears to be equally unacceptable. The State Treaty, for which Austria has been waiting so many years, must bring the country complete and undivided freedom and sovereignty. The obligation which Austria would have to assume, according to the proposal of Soviet Foreign Minister Molotov, not to enter into any coalitions or military alliances appears to require clarification since the Federal Government, without detracting from its repeated declarations that it intends to enter into no military alliances, could not accept any obligation which might prevent its economic and political collaboration in the consolidation of Europe. The demands of the Soviet Foreign Minister, as far as they are known here at the moment, would mean neither more nor less than that the Soviet Union would assure herself of all the benefits of a state treaty with regard to Austrian obligations and of all the strategic and political advantages inherent in a continued occupation."

FOREIGN MINISTER FIGL PRESENTS AUSTRIAN VIEWPOINT AT BERLIN.

After the admittance of the Austrian delegation to the Berlin Four-Power Conference as an equal partner in the conversations on Austria, Foreign Minister Leopold Figl undertook to present the Austrian viewpoint to the Big Four Foreign Ministers.

Dr. Figl pointed out first that Austria, the first country to be attacked and occupied by Hitler Germany, was treated like a colonial territory and completely deprived of her international freedom of action. For this reason, he said, the Austrian people were overjoyed when the Big Powers stated in the Moscow Declaration of 1943 that the annexation of Austria by Germany was null and void and that after the war Austria would be restored as a free and independent country. Thus, the Big Powers had assumed the obligation to provide for the liberation of Austria.

The Austrian Minister described how the new Austrian government, elected after the liberation by free and secret bal-

lotting in 1945, obtained very remarkable results, particularly in the field of reconstruction. He declared that Austria could rightly point out that her political condition is characterized by particular stability and that thanks to the efforts of all classes of the population the major part of the destruction caused by the war has been repaired.

Dr. Figl then recalled that the first negotiations concerning the restoration of Austrian sovereignty and freedom began in 1946 - with Austria excluded from the discussions - and have been continuing ever since, but always without results. Nevertheless, he declared, the few articles of the draft treaty which are still in dispute are by no means of such importance that they could not immediately be settled given good will on all sides. The fact that the state treaty has not yet been concluded, he went on, has now led to the strange situation that the country which was the first victim of Nazi aggression will be the last to obtain its full freedom and sovereignty - and this because of a situation for which the country itself is not in the least responsible.

Dr. Figl then emphasized that the continued occupation of the country has placed a heavy burden on the Austrian people and that it represents a continual drain on the Austrian economy. Declaring that Austria was prepared to make heavy sacrifices to obtain freedom and independence, he stated that it must nevertheless be pointed out that the Austrian people and government feel that the economic terms laid down in the state treaty draft thus far agreed upon are particularly harsh. He said that it was harsh and inequitable, after all the sacrifices which Austria has had to bear thus far, to demand that settlement for the so-called German assets now be paid in dollars and not in goods.

It is in violation of national rights and of United Nations agreements, said Dr. Figl, for Austria to be deprived by the state treaty draft of the right to dispose freely of her oil.

The Austrian Foreign Minister declared in conclusion: "Austria's only desire is to recover her full freedom and sovereignty as soon as possible. Despite all obstacles, she has, as never before in the history of the Republic, given proof of her viability. We therefore accept every provision of the present state treaty draft which would ensure Austria's independence, freedom and sovereignty in every respect... I now appeal to you gentlemen: give Austria her state treaty and you will thereby not only give 7,000,000 Austrians the freedom long due them but will also contribute to the strengthening of peace, to a true relaxation of tension in international relations and to the preservation of security in Europe."

Berlin Conference (cont'd from p. 1)

the treaty contingent upon acceptance of completely new conditions, including Western consent to the continued presence of the occupation troops in Austria after the conclusion of the Austrian treaty and until such time as a peace treaty with Germany was signed. This unreasonable demand was emphatically rejected by both the Austrian and Western delegations.

On the final day of the Berlin Conference, Thursday February 18, Mr. Molotov stated his willingness to withdraw several of his other conditions for the Austrian treaty provided his de-

mand for the continued occupation of Austria until conclusion of the German peace treaty was accepted.

After this, Austrian Foreign Minister Figl, who had already declared that the measure of the freedom and independence of a country was the evacuation of all foreign troops, made a final effort to induce the Soviets to agree to acceptable conditions. Dr. Figl proposed that June 30, 1955, be set as the ultimate date for the final withdrawal of all troops from Austria. Mr. Molotov refused Dr. Figl's offer, which he described as "inadequate." Thus, the final effort to induce the Soviets to accept the Austrian state treaty ended in failure.

Molotov then attempted to turn the Austrian problem back to a subordinate body and proposed the establishment of diplomatic machinery in Vienna for continued discussion - with Austrian participation - of the state treaty question. Dr. Figl declared that this proposal would be given consideration by the Austrian Government, provided there was a chance of reaching an agreement.

Supported by Mr. Eden and M. Bidault, Secretary of State, John Foster Dulles described the entire Soviet position and the concessions offered by Molotov as unacceptable because they would produce something far short of independence for Austria. Mr. Dulles suggested that diplomatic negotiations on the Austrian question could be undertaken whenever the Soviet Government informed the Western governments of the date on which it was prepared to withdraw its troops from Austria. Molotov rejected this counter-proposal.

Western Powers Demand (cont'd from p. 1)

few steps were all that were necessary, he insisted that no other issues had any connection with the assignment of the Foreign Ministers.

"For various reasons, we must reply promptly to the appeal of the Austrian Foreign Minister," said Secretary Dulles, "Firstly, because Austria was the first victim of Hitler; secondly, because it is necessary to wipe out the sad memory of the previous meetings at which the attitude of the Soviet Union was so disappointing; and lastly, to express our recognition of the extraordinary efforts the Austrians have made to achieve recovery."

This view of Mr. Dulles was shared by British Foreign Minister Anthony Eden and French Foreign Minister Bidault.

The Foreign Ministers of the Western Powers then agreed unanimously to accept the Soviet proposals for the five remaining articles of the state treaty still unresolved after five years, thereby making the treaty ready for signature. Molotov protested against this action, saying that neither Austria nor the Western Powers had had time to study the new Soviet amendments. On the other hand, he expressed no opinion concerning the acceptance by the West of the still unresolved articles.

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AUSTRIAN PRESS COMMENTS ON MOLOTOV DEMANDS.

All Austrian newspapers have run editorials rejecting the new demands of the Soviet Union. The People's Party organ "Neue Wiener Tageszeitung" writes that Molotov's latest demands have deeply disappointed the Austrian people. The Socialist "Arbeiter-Zeitung" analyzes Molotov's demands as meaning that if Austria accepted these conditions she would in the future be unable to become a member of any international organization which Russia herself did not care to join because Russia could then immediately interpret her joining such an organization as a breach of treaty. "Arbeiter-Zeitung" also rejects the provision for leaving the occupation troops in Austria, declaring: "Without evacuation, the state treaty would truly be a scrap of paper."

"Das kleine Volksblatt" (People's Party) writes: "In the face of this undisputed fact (Molotov's conditions), no propagandist will be able to convince a single Austrian that it is not the Soviet Union but another party which is preventing conclusion of the state treaty." The coalition organ "Neues Oesterreich" declares: "Austria needs no foreign soldiers to prevent a new Anschluss with Germany by force of arms. She will prevent it herself because she sets value on always remaining an independent state, and not a province."

The "Presse" (Independent), under the heading "Molotov's proposal completely unacceptable," writes that unless Molotov withdraws his conditions and employs new subterfuges it will be evident to the entire world that the Soviet Union does not wish to restore Austria's freedom and that the game of evasion will be continued indefinitely."

After the reaffirmation of the Soviet demands, the "Presse" declared: "What is the value of dissolving the Allied Council within 90 days if the occupation troops, as in the theater, leave by one wing only to reenter by the other? The Austrian capital would be free of the Allied units....except that Vienna would thus....be surrounded by Soviet troops. What, then, does Molotov want? Even a hasty analysis shows that his recent 'amendments' to the state treaty are dictated exclusively by considerations of strategy and power politics. The treaty which is being offered Austria 'for this week only' is a document of capitulation; it would mean surrender of our will to live as an independent state. It is just the opposite of what this country has been fighting for since its rebirth: the recognition of its indivisible freedom and independence."

RUSSIAN-CONTROLLED PLANTS IN AUSTRIA BARELY WORTH 40 MILLION DOLLARS.

A recent re-evaluation of the 300 plants confiscated by the Russians in Austria showed that their total sale value is now only between 35 and 40 million dollars. It will be recalled that the Russians are demanding a lump-sum payment of 150 million dollars for these plants. This was the estimated value back in 1949 when the Austrian state treaty draft was first drafted. However, since the Soviets have thus far failed to sign the draft, although they have continued ruthlessly to exploit the confiscated plants, their value has decreased by more than two-thirds since 1949.

SOVIETS MAINTAIN 186 RETAIL OUTLETS IN THEIR ZONE.

According to the latest information, the Soviets are operating a total of 186 retail outlets in the Russian zone of Austria — this in addition to the 300 large industrial plants confiscated by them. These stores sell staple and luxury foods, wines and liquor, textiles, cigarettes, radio sets, bicycles, shoes, furniture, watches, musical instruments, typewriters, calculating machines, arms, toys, sewing machines and many other items. The major part of this merchandise was manufactured not in Austria but in the Communist satellite countries and then smuggled into Austria as property of the Soviet Occupation Power, in evasion of Austrian customs inspection. The Austrian state loses millions of schillings in customs duties and taxes of all kinds in consequence of the illegal business operations of the Russian authorities.

As a result of these customs and tax evasions, the Russian retail stores are of course in a position to dump and undersell their merchandise, thereby inflicting extreme hardship on the Austrian economy. Many of the Russian-operated businesses were extorted from their former Austrian owners by means of threats and pressure. In spite of this situation, the discipline of the Austrian people has already compelled the Russians to close down many of their outlets — which originally numbered far more than 186. Nevertheless, the Soviets still attempt to continue operation of those shops which fail for lack of business by operating them as affiliates or by using camouflaged names.

AUSTRIAN SOCIAL WELFARE MINISTER KARL MAISEL TO VISIT UNITED STATES.

Karl Maisel, Austrian Minister of Social Welfare, has arrived in the United States on February 24 for a visit during which he will attend the meeting of the Central Committee of the International Metal Workers' Union to be held in Washington from February 26th to March 3rd.

Mr. Maisel is one of the outstanding representatives of the Austrian trade union movement. He is the First Deputy President of the Austrian Trade Union Federation and President of the biggest Austrian trade union, that of the metal and mine workers. Born in Vienna on November 3, 1890, Karl Maisel learned the trade of mechanic and machinist. After his apprenticeship, following the custom of the times, he travelled through half of Europe. He was called up for military service in 1911 and served during the First World War. During this period Karl Maisel was already active in the labor movement and the Social Democratic Party. After the war he returned to his former employer, the firm of Siemens & Halske, where he became union agent and head of the works council. In 1926 Maisel was one of the first to be selected to study at the newly established Workers' University and after completion of his studies was appointed Education Consultant and Chief of the Statistical Department. In 1932 he was elected to the Municipal Council and Provincial Diet of Vienna. Following the occupation of Austria by Hitler's troops, Maisel was arrested and deported to the Buchenwald concentration camp. He was released after a while but only to be rearrested shortly afterward. It was only at the end of the war that he was freed from the concentration camp. Immediately after his release Maisel made himself available for the political task of Austria's reconstruction. He was elec-

ted to Parliament in 1945 as a representative of the Socialist Party, and in December of the same year was appointed Minister of Social Welfare. Maisel was subsequently reelected to Parliament in 1949 and again in 1953, and has retained his position as Austrian Minister of Social Welfare without interruption.

TO OUR READERS: Together with their copy of the last issue of AUSTRIAN INFORMATION (Volume VII, No. 3, February 13), a number of our readers received a postcard in which they were asked to indicate any change in address, subjects in which they are interested and whether they wish to continue receiving the publication. The editor found it necessary to take this action in order to bring the mailing list of AUSTRIAN INFORMATION up to date. Since it is possible that recipients of AUSTRIAN INFORMATION who do not return this card may be dropped from the distribution list, it is respectfully requested that the reply card, duly filled out, be mailed as soon as possible. It should be emphasized, however, that for the time being only some of our readers have received such reply cards and only these are requested to confirm their interest in our bulletin.

The Editor—

REPATRIATES REPORT ON FATE OF AUSTRIANS STILL HELD IN RUSSIA.

Austrians who have just returned from Russian imprisonment reported after their arrival in Vienna that they had seen several hundred other Austrians in the camps where they had to do forced labor. The repatriates said that it had been forbidden to write down the names of these unfortunate persons and therefore, when they learned that they were to be released, they learned many of these names by heart and were thus able to convey information to the relatives of those Austrians still held in the Soviet Union. Most of the prisoners were sentenced, without trial and without preferment of charges, to 25 years of forced labor. Among them were many women who had been carried off to Russia from Austria after the war. The repatriates also told of people who had been transported to Poland by the Gestapo during the war and, after the "liberation," had been deported from there to Russia and again condemned to forced labor.

NEW AUSTRIAN AMBASSADOR TO U.S. ARRIVES IN NEW YORK. The new Austrian Ambassador to the United States, former Austrian Foreign Minister Karl Gruber, arrived in New York on the "Andrea Doria" on February 25, accompanied by Mrs. Helga Gruber. Dr. Gruber will assume his assignment in Washington D.C. on March 1.

NEW BRITISH AMBASSADOR ARRIVES IN VIENNA. Sir Geoffrey Wallinger, the new British Ambassador to Austria, arrived in Vienna on February 6 to assume his new office. Sir Geoffrey had already been a member of the British Legation in 1930 and consequently he has an excellent knowledge of Austria.

TRANSFER OF W.H.O. HEADQUARTERS TO VIENNA CONSIDERED. Austrian Social Welfare Minister Maisel recently received Dr. Norman Begg, head of the European headquarters of the World Health Organization (WHO) of the U.N., and Economic Director Moebius, for an exchange of opinions in Vienna on the possibility of transferring the European headquarters of WHO to Vienna. At a recent meeting of the Austrian League for the United Nations, Professor Finsterer, speaking in the name of Vienna's physicians and the medical faculty of Vienna University, also declared that a transfer of the WHO headquarters to Vienna would be greatly welcomed.

SOVIETS EASE GRAY CARD REGULATIONS FOR VISITORS.

The Soviet element has modified the regulations whereby Americans entering Vienna by road or rail are required to obtain gray cards authorizing them to cross the Soviet zone. Hitherto, U.S. visitors could enter and leave only via the U.S. zone, i.e., via the Enns-Vienna route. They may now, however, enter from the British zone via the Semmering if they so specify when applying for the gray card. In order to leave by another route, they must apply in Vienna for a countersigned Soviet permit. If the visitor wishes to leave by his route of entry, the original permit suffices.

AUSTRIA'S 1953 PAYMENTS BALANCE SHOWS SURPLUS OF 2.5 BILLION SCHILLINGS.

The surplus in Austria's balance of payments for 1953 amounted to 2.5 billion schillings, as against the 1952 balance which still showed a deficit of 2 billion. The Vienna publication "Statistische Nachrichten" points out in this connection that in addition to the favorable foreign trade balance of 838 million schillings, tourist trade brought in more than 1.5 billion. It writes that the favorable foreign trade situation must be attributed not only to the increase in export trade but also to the reduction in imports, the latter having been made possible only by the increased output of Austrian agriculture and by a reduction of domestic inventories. However, according to the explanation given by "Statistische Nachrichten," this situation can be regarded only as a transitional one because Austria, despite her lack of capital, would have to export on a credit basis if she continues to cut down her imports while continuing to increase her exports. For this reason, it continues, the revival of the capital market continues to be one of the most urgent Austrian economic problems. While admitting that savings deposits have increased 50 per cent and that bank liquidity has increased substantially, the article points out that this alone does not help very much and notes that there has been a reduction in investment activity since Marshall Plan aid has been tapering off.

"Statistische Nachrichten" reports further that the National Bank has increased its foreign exchange reserves from 4.6 to 6.7 billion schillings as a consequence of increased exports and tourist trade. As a result, the total amount of Austrian currency presently in circulation is more than half covered by gold and foreign exchange.

Price levels in 1953 were almost completely stable. The wholesale price index fell from 786 to 778 and the retail price index from 671 to 667. It is believed that industrial produc-

tion, for which the final figures are not yet available, remained substantially at the 1952 level.

In the matter of foreign trade, out of a total 13.27 billion schillings' worth of imports, only 7 per cent was represented by ERP shipments, as compared with 14 per cent in 1952. Among the principal countries from which Austria drew her imports were the following (all figures in billions of schillings): Western Germany (3.76), United States (1.66), Italy (0.96), Great Britain (0.77), Switzerland (0.56) and France (0.54). Her principal customers were: Western Germany (2.59), Italy (2.15), Great Britain (0.91), United States (0.76), Switzerland (0.55), Yugoslavia (0.54), Netherlands (0.54) and France (0.46).

AUSTRIAN EXPORT FUND GRANTS 1002 LOANS. By the end of 1953, the Austrian Export Fund Association, founded in the year 1950, had granted a total of 1002 loans in support of Austrian exports. The aggregate value of these loans amounted to 147 million schillings, which served to finance exports with a total invoice value of 251 million schillings. A total of 299 firms have received loans since the establishment of the Fund. Established with a credit capital of 25 million schillings, the Fund now has 45 million schillings at its disposal.

ANNUAL O.E.E.C. REPORT ACKNOWLEDGES AUSTRIA'S IMPROVED ECONOMIC POSITION. The Section on Austria in the 1953 annual report of the Organization for European Economic Cooperation (OEEC) states that stabilization was achieved in Austria at a time when a decrease in production was registered in all of the other OEEC member countries. It adds that by restoring sound economic conditions, Austria has prospects of further increasing her production, which has already been stepped up thanks to her measures designed to encourage export trade. The report declares that the chief task of the Austrian Government will be to reduce unemployment and improve the standard of living without thereby creating the danger of inflation or worsening the balance of trade. Pointing out that an extensive investment program will be necessary if the successes in foreign trade are to be maintained, the OEEC advocates that the capital necessary for such investment be made available through further encouragement of savings and by increasing the liquid assets of private industry. The OEEC report also predicts substantial successes from the broadened liberalization program.

UNITED AUSTRIAN IRON AND STEEL WORKS SUPPLY EGYPT WITH SWING BRIDGE. The United Austrian Iron and Steel Works in Linz recently delivered a swing bridge to Egypt, where it will span the Khantak-el Sharqui Canal. The structure in question is a highway bridge with unequal swivels, 37.5 meters long and 15 meters wide and is designed for a roadway load of 1,000 kilograms per square meter. The order for the steel structure extended to the complete steel construction and the mechanical installations, representing a total weight of 220 tons. The Austrian plant has already supplied a number of similar structures ordered by the Egyptian government and has concluded contracts to supply still others.

VORARLBERG MANUFACTURES NYLON LACE. The Vorarlberg embroidery industry, which has been very successful in the export field, has now extended its production by manufacturing etching lace from nylon and perlon. After long experimentation it has now proved possible to make embroideries with nylon and perlon threads. Hitherto, this was possible only with rayon. Keen interest is already being shown abroad for these new products of the Vorarlberg lace and embroidery industry. The export of Vorarlberg embroidery products continues to increase. It is believed that the export figure for 1953 reached 200 million schillings, thus exceeding the 1952 figure by about 70 million. The biggest customer for Austrian embroidery products at the present time is Germany, to whom 25 % of the production is exported.

Molotov Replies (cont'd from p. 1)

must undertake to join no coalition or military alliance directed against a country which participated in the war against Hitler; she must permit no foreign power to establish military bases on Austrian territory; she must not permit activity on the part of foreign military trainers and specialists.

Mr. Molotov also made the following points: "In order to prevent a new Anschluss with Germany," the withdrawal of foreign troops from Austria should be postponed until the peace treaty with Germany is completed. On the other hand, all troops should be withdrawn from the capital city of Vienna. (This would mean that the Western occupation troops must retire to their own zones of occupation while the Soviet troops would remain at the city limits); the question of Trieste must be clarified; the Soviet Union agrees that Austria is to make settlement for the property confiscated by the Soviets in goods and not in dollars.

In subsequent discussions Molotov expressed his willingness to have a clause included in the treaty whereby the withdrawal of the occupation troops from Austria "should again be considered" in the year 1955.

TEXTILE INDUSTRY IS LEADING AUSTRIAN EMPLOYER.

In 1953 Austrian industry employed a total of 501,719 persons in 11,108 enterprises. The textile industry, with a total of 73,790 workers, accounts for the largest number of employees, followed by the mining industry with 58,903, the food industry with 45,374, the machine, steel and iron construction industry with 39,976, the iron and metal processing industry with 31,568, the chemical industry with 29,370, the ceramic and pottery industry with 29,165, the electrical industry with 27,902, sawmills with 25,539 and the paper industry with 20,275. In October 1953 Austrian industrial workers put in a total of 76,279,843 working hours.

EXPORT DISPLAYS AT FOREIGN TRADE AGENCIES ADVERTISE AUSTRIAN PRODUCTS.

Some time ago the Austrian Federal Chamber of Commerce initiated the organization of displays of sample export merchandise at the various Austrian foreign trade agencies abroad. The foreign trade office in New York as well as those in Brussels (Belgium) and Djakarta (Indonesia) have already opened such permanent exhibits of Austrian export

merchandise. It is now planned that the foreign trade offices in Los Angeles, La Paz and Bombay should also have sample exhibits. Negotiations are in progress with a view to opening permanent displays in Tokyo, Hongkong and Leopoldville.

19 NATIONS TO EXHIBIT AT VIENNA SPRING FAIR. A preliminary review indicates that a total of 19 countries will be represented by displays at the Vienna International Spring Fair (March 14-21). Three of these countries are even planning to organize collective exhibits in pavilions of their own. The individual countries to be represented are Belgium, Denmark, Western Germany, Great Britain, France, the Netherlands, Italy, Liechtenstein, Monaco, Norway, Portugal, Sweden, Switzerland, Spain and Czechoslovakia. The non-European world will be represented by Pakistan, Turkey, the United States and Algeria.

CONTRACT FOR AUSTRIAN PIG IRON DELIVERIES TO BRITAIN EXTENDED FOR ONE YEAR. After several weeks of negotiation, the United Austrian Iron and Steel Works in Linz have succeeded in extending for another year their current contract with the British Iron and Steel organization for the delivery of pig iron. The present agreement has been in effect for a year and a half. This development guarantees that the plant will be able to keep its three blast furnaces operating during 1954. The contract also guarantees that the iron works will be able to operate at their previous capacity, as will also the coking plant and the gas generating plant supplying the adjoining nitrogen works. Under this contract, approximately 300,000 tons of pig iron were shipped to England in 1953.

MORE THAN 10 MILLION CUBIC METERS OF WOOD FELLED IN AUSTRIA IN 1953. In the year 1953 approximately 10 million cubic meters (1 cu.m. equals 35.31 cu.ft.) of round timber were felled in Austria, 3.1 million cubic meters of which were for firewood. Approx. 4.8 million cubic meters were processed in the form of milled lumber and pitwood for export. The felling of 7.8 million cubic meters is planned for 1954, of which 50 percent is to be logwood, 32 percent fiberboard and 18 percent firewood.

230 AUSTRIAN WOODEN HOUSES TO BE EXPORTED TO U.S. The Austrian Wooden House Association in Linz has signed a contract for the delivery of 230 wooden houses to the United States this year.

AMERICAN SKI TEAM TRAINS AND COMPETES IN AUSTRIA. The American F.I.S. (International Ski Federation) team which will participate in the world competitions in Sweden is leaving the U.S. to train and compete at Austrian international winter-sport resorts. All their expenses are being paid by the Austrian resorts. They are scheduled to participate in preliminary F.I.S. competitions at Kitzbuehel (Province of Tyrol) and Bad Gastein (Province of Salzburg). All the Austrian arrangements and liaison were carried out by Mr. Rudolf F. Mattesich, the representative of the Austrian Ski Association for North America. High hopes are entertained for both the American and Austrian ski teams. Thus far, the latter has carried off every team record in downhill F.I.S. competitions.

CULTURE AND SCIENCE

NEW STATE OPERA DIRECTOR AIMS AT ENSEMBLE COMPANY. Dr. Karl Boehm, the newly appointed director of the Vienna State Opera, declared in an interview with the Vienna newspaper "Neues Oesterreich" that many of his plans and projects are not yet ready for discussion. He indicated, however, that one thing was definite - his intention to return to an ensemble company and to abandon what is known as the star system. "I welcome every star," said Boehm, "and for Vienna the best singers are just good enough, but they must be willing to cooperate with me. For only in this way is it possible to achieve a high average level of perfection and, in the last analysis, it is this high average level which determines the worth of any theater. However, over and beyond the matter of engaging fine singers... there are three other elements which guarantee an absolute maximum in high standards for Vienna. These are the Philharmonic Orchestra, the State Opera Chorus and the State Opera Ballet. What we artists need above all is public response. That the Vienna public is as responsive as ever was sufficiently demonstrated to me on the occasion of my last two concerts."

Dr. Boehm described his appointment as director of the State Opera as the crowning point in his artistic career.

KARAJAN TO CONDUCT CONCERT SERIES DURING 1954-55 SEASON. The Vienna Society of the Friends of Music recently announced that its plans for the next season include another series of concerts by the Vienna Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Herbert Karajan. The series will consist of six symphonic concerts. The first program will be a concert performance of Claude Debussy's opera "Pelléas et Mélisande."

NEW OPERA BY ERNEST KRENEK. The Austrian composer Ernest Krenek, now living in Los Angeles, recently completed both the libretto and music of a new opera called "Pallas Athene weint" (Pallas Athene Weeps).

The theme of this three-act opera is the collapse of democracy in Athens following the Peloponnesian War. Krenek is at present writing a violin concerto for the Hungarian violinist Tibor Varga. Among Krenek's best known works are the operas "Jonny spielt auf," "Das Leben des Orest" and "Karl der Fuenfte."

12 MOZART MINUETS DISCOVERED. Twelve minuets by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart were recently discovered in the Franciscan cloister church at Maria-Enzersdorf near Vienna. The compositions are part of carnival music written by Mozart in 1791 for performance at the Kleine Redoutensaal.

OVERTURE TO HITHERTO UNPERFORMED SCHUBERT OPERA FRAGMENT HEARD IN VIENNA. The overture to the uncompleted three-act opera "Sakuntala" by Franz Schubert, was performed in Vienna on the occasion of the 125th anniversary of the composer's death. The opera was begun by Schubert in the year 1820, the same year in which he worked on his "Unfinished Symphony." The score of "Sakuntala"

is in the Austrian National Library which, with its three hundred original Schubert manuscripts, has the largest Schubert collection in the world. The overture to "Sakuntala" was performed by the "Jung Wien" choral ensemble under the direction of Professor Leo Lehner.

KURT MOLDOVAN DRAWINGS DISPLAYED IN INNSBRUCK.

The Institut Français of Innsbruck is exhibiting a number of drawings made by Kurt Moldovan, one of Austria's most interesting younger artists, during a sojourn in Paris last year. Moldovan is primarily a graphic artist who is best known for his large number of drawings.

AMERICAN AND BRITISH ARTISTS EXHIBIT IN VIENNA.

An exhibition of work by the American abstract painter Bert S. Miripolsky was recently opened at Vienna's Sezession Gallery. A display of paintings by the contemporary British artist Graham Sutherland, which has opened at the Tyrolean Provincial Museum, will also be shown in Vienna during the coming spring season. The Wuerthle Gallery in Vienna will shortly present a Brazilian traveling art exhibition which was shown for the first time two years ago at the Biennale of the Museum of Modern Art in Sao Paulo.

AUSTRIA PURCHASES DRAWINGS FROM LOWER AUSTRIAN BAROQUE PAINTER.

The Lower Austrian Provincial Museum in Vienna recently purchased a collection of hitherto unknown drawings by the Austrian Baroque painter Martin Johann Schmidt (1718-1801), known as the "Kremser Schmidt." The drawings of the master, whose altar paintings are to be found in numerous churches of Lower Austria, were regarded as artistic works of the first rank even at the time they were executed. The collection, which until now has been in private hands and was not known to the experts, represents another interesting contribution to the history of Austrian Baroque art. One of the known collections of Schmidt's drawings was sold to an American purchaser after the First World War and is in a private collection here.

THIRD VOLUME OF "STIMMEN DER GEGENWART" APPEARS.

The third annual volume of "Stimmen der Gegenwart," edited by Hans Weigel, has now been published by the Albrecht Duerer Publishing House in Vienna. This book presents a cross-section of the most recent work of young Austrian poets, authors and artists. As may be seen from the new volume, several young Austrians who only a year ago were still unknown have rapidly climbed the ladder of success. Many of them were first published by "Stimmen der Gegenwart" and their works have subsequently met with enthusiastic response. The publication has set itself the goal of helping Austria's young artists and writers make a name for themselves.

AUSTRIAN PHYSICIAN PROPOSES INTERNATIONAL INVENTORY OF RARE DRUGS.

Dr. Karl Fellingner, head of the Second Vienna University Medical Clinic and a famous specialist in internal medicine, has proposed the establishment of an international center to maintain an inventory of rare drugs available in various countries. This would make

it possible, in emergency cases, to obtain at once such drugs as are available in only few parts of the world. This proposal was prompted by the recent dramatic rescue of an Austrian child whose life was saved at the last moment by a drug flown to Austria from the United States. As soon as the case became known, Italian clinics requested Austria to make available some of this drug for their own use. On the other hand, a Dutch source indicated that it could have supplied the drug at any time. Dr. Fellingner has now proposed that an international inventory be made of all such drugs.

AMERICAN STUDENT WRITES DOCTORAL DISSERTATION ON AUSTRIA.

The American student Cary Travers Grayson has written a 170-page doctoral thesis on "Austria's International Position from 1938 to 1953" which has now been published in book form by the publishing house of E. Droz in Geneva. The book is written in the English language and its ten chapters deal with the following subjects: The First Austrian Republic; the end of Austrian independence; the Austrian resistance movement; liberation and occupation by the Allies; the beginning of military government; the Austrian federal government; post-war economic difficulties; the new phase of Allied control; power politics and the state treaty; Austria without a state treaty. The appendix contains statistical data, maps, the most important political documents and a comprehensive bibliography. The work represents a significant piece of scholarship covering the last 15 years of Austrian political history. The book can now be obtained in the United States through the firm of A. M. Adler in New York.

1954 SEMINAR TOUR OF EUROPEAN STUDIES INSTITUTE INCLUDES VISIT TO AUSTRIA.

The Institute of European Studies in Chicago has included a visit to Austria in its planned seminar tour for 1954. The participants in the tour will spend two days in Vienna, two days at the Salzburg Festival and one day in the Grossglockner area. In Vienna, Dr. Verosta, an Austrian diplomat and faculty member of Vienna University, will deliver a lecture entitled "Austria in a European Federation" as part of the seminar. At Salzburg the seminar members will attend performances of Mozart's "Cosi Fan Tutte" and Carl Maria von Weber's "Der Freischuetz." Subsequently there will be a trip through the Austrian Alps and a visit to Austria's highest mountain, the Grossglockner.

AUSTRIAN EXCHANGE STUDENT PRESENTS DENVER UNIVERSITY WITH HELMHOLTZ MANUSCRIPT.

The Austrian exchange student Wolfgang Pfaundler recently presented the University of Denver with a manuscript of the famous physicist and scholar Hermann von Helmholtz. Pfaundler, who is studying at Denver University under the sponsorship of the Institute of International Education and with the aid of a tuition scholarship from the University, presented the letter as an expression of gratitude for the scholarship aid given him. Dated September 13, 1869, the letter came from Pfaundler's valuable collection of correspondence of his grandfather, Leopold Pfaundler, a well-known scientist, tea-

cher and author of textbooks which were standard works in his day and are still valuable references today. Helmholtz' letter to the elder Pfaundler is an acceptance of an invitation to visit the latter's home and contains a request for aid in taking care of a mechanical model illustrating the structure of the ear. The model was to be used for lectures at the University of Innsbruck. Wolfgang Pfaundler got the idea of making the gift when he discovered a three-volume physics and meteorology textbook written by his grandfather occupying a prominent place in the Denver University library.

ANDRE DE LA VARRE FILMING AUSTRIAN WINTER LIFE FOR CINEMASCOPE.

André de la Varre has left for Austria to produce a Cinemascope documentary on Austrian winter-sport centers. He will visit the major resorts and cover the wide variety of sports engaged in by Austrians and international visitors to the Eastern Alps. He will also film costume festivals and many other Austrian winter highlights. The picture, to be released by Warner Brothers next season, will be filmed with special cameras constructed for Mr. de la Varre and will be shown on the new wide screens.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ISOTOPE RESEARCH AT BAD GASTEIN.

An international conference of physicians from Germany, Great Britain, Switzerland and Austria was recently held at Bad Gastein for discussion of experiences in the use of isotopes for medical purposes. The meeting was the idea

of Professor Karl Fellingner, head of the Second University Medical Clinic of Vienna and Professor Ferdinand Scheminzy, an Innsbruck physiologist and director of the Gastein Research Institute. Gastein was chosen as the site for the meeting in consideration of its fame as a radioactive spa. Professor Scheminzy delivered a lecture describing the exploitation of the radioactive springs and the nearby gallery of a former mine, used for therapeutic purposes in recent years. This exploitation was made possible largely as a result of research carried out by the Gastein Institute.

FRITZ HOCHWAELDER'S "DONADIEU" TO BE PERFORMED IN BASEL AND BERLIN.

Fritz Hochwaelder's latest historical drama "Donadieu," the world premiere of which took place at the Vienna Burgtheater last autumn, will have its first Swiss performance in a production by Albert Wiesner, manager of the Basel Municipal Theater, during the present year. A first performance in Germany is due at the Schillertheater in Berlin at the end of February.

PROFESSOR BOEHLER APPOINTED MEMBER OF MEXICAN ACADEMY OF SURGEONS.

Dr. Lorenz Boehler, Professor at the University of Vienna, has been made a corresponding member of the Mexican Academy of Surgeons.

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